

## “Plead my cause” Psalm 35:1-28

7/16/17

Today, we'd like to see the title of “Plead my cause” in the book of Psalm 35:1-28

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 1, “Plead *my cause*, O LORD, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me,” why does David pray to God to fight against his enemies, although he is able to fight against them by himself?

Q2. In verse 4, “Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor, Who seek after my life; Let those be turned back and brought to confusion, Who plot my hurt,” what do you feel about this kind of a cursing prayer?

Q3. In verse 17, “Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue me from their destructions, My precious *life* from the lions,” what is God's purpose to David for this silence during about 10 years? How should we do in the similar circumstances?

### (Background)

An imprecatory psalm – a psalm for judgment or curse.

David has been pursued to be killed by Saul since about 10 years ago when David was ordained as the king over all the nation of Israel by God through Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:1, 13 “<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons. <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.” (Then, David the 8<sup>th</sup> son of Jesse was about 20 years old. Like today, now the world belongs to Jesus through His cross with shed blood & resurrection, but Satan consistently pursues to take over the world by tempting the children of God.) 2 Sam 5:4-5, “David was thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.”

David cut off Saul's robe in a cave: (1 Samuel 24:4,5) <sup>4</sup> Then the men of David said to him, “This is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.’” And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. <sup>5</sup> Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. David told to Saul, “Let God judge it”: (1 Samuel 24:15) “Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand.”

### (Text)

<p><sup>1</sup> <u>Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive with me;</u>  <u>Fight against those who fight against me.</u></p> <p><sup>2</sup> Take hold of shield and buckler,  And stand up for my help.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Also draw out the spear,  And stop those who pursue me.  Say to my soul,  <u>"I am your salvation."</u></p> <p><sup>4</sup> <u>Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor</u>  <u>Who seek after my life;</u>  <u>Let those be turned back and brought to confusion</u>  <u>Who plot my hurt.</u></p> <p><sup>5</sup> Let them be <u>like chaff</u> before the wind,  And <u>let the angel of the LORD chase them.</u></p>	<p>1 = Q1 Plead my cause (plead my case, to whom?) O Lord (Petition to God); those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me (Let God fight those who fight and strive against me. Why does David ask God to fight, not fight himself? (1) Those were followers of Saul who was once ordained by God; (2) fight against the power of darkness; (3) avenger is God <sup>1</sup> 1 Sam 24:6; Eph 6:11-12,18; 1 Thes 4:6)</p> <p>2= I am your salvation (God is David's salvation)</p> <p>4= Q2 Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor who seek after my life (harsh words, continually harsher words, like curse); be turned back and brought to confusion who plot my hurt (it is to hate enemy; eye to eye/tooth to tooth <sup>2</sup> Ex 21:24; Mat 5:43-48; Gal 3:25; Romans 11:6; e.g. Before being called as a pastor, I worked with a Jew for educational counseling. One customer did not pay one counseling fee by due date. I said, "Let's do God's way!" He said, "Yes." Two days later, he told me, we should file a small claim for the debt. I said we agreed to do in God's way, and we should meet him and give a grace period to pay it off. He said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." (Exodus 21:24). At that time, I acknowledged the big difference between OT and NT. He is a Judaist. I am a Christian)</p> <p>5= like chaff (blow away chaff – wheat divided with light chaff and heavy kernel); let the angel of the Lord chase them (let the angel pursue the enemies; Note – "the angel of the Lord" the usual title of Christ in which God manifested Himself to man in OT before His incarnation, called as Christophany <sup>3</sup> Gen 16:7; Ex 3:2)</p>
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<sup>1</sup> 1 Sam 24:6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." Eph 6:11-12, 18<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—: 1 Thes 4:3-6 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor. <sup>5</sup> not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God: <sup>6</sup> that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

<sup>2</sup> Ex 21:24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.; Mat 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven: for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? <sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Gal 3:25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.; Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

<sup>3</sup> Gen 16:7 Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. (the Angel of the Lord appeared as a man to Hagar who had been evicted by Sarah); Ex 3:2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

<p><sup>6</sup> Let their way be <u>dark and slippery</u>, And let the angel of the LORD <u>pursue them</u>.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> For <u>without cause</u> they have hidden their net for me <i>in</i> a pit, <i>Which</i> they have dug <u>without cause</u> for my life.</p> <p><sup>8</sup> <u>Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly</u>, And <u>let his net that he has hidden catch himself</u>; Into <u>that very destruction</u> let him fall.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> And my soul shall be <u>joyful in the LORD</u>; <u>It shall rejoice in His salvation</u>.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> <u>All my bones</u> shall say, "LORD, who <i>is</i> like You, Delivering <u>the poor</u> from him who is too strong for him, Yes, <u>the poor and the needy</u> from him who plunders him?"</p> <p><sup>11</sup> <u>Fierce witnesses</u> rise up; They ask me <u>things that I do not know</u>.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> <u>They reward me evil for good</u>, To the sorrow of my soul.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> But <u>as for me</u>, when they were sick, My clothing <i>was</i> sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> I paced about <u>as though he were</u> my friend <i>or</i> brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who</p>	<p>8= Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly (really curse the trapper, David's enemy); let his net that he has hidden catch himself into that very destruction let him fall (like Haman <sup>4</sup><i>Esther 7:9-10</i>)</p> <p>9= ...joyful in the Lord... It (my soul) shall rejoice in His salvation (prayer is coupled with joyfulness, thanksgiving, or worship)</p> <p>10= All my bones (all my skeleton, i.e., all my whole being)... delivering the poor... the poor and the needy...(the Lord's characteristics)</p> <p>11= Fierce witnesses (the witnesses against the peace; or false witnesses – the witnesses against the truth)</p> <p>12 = They reward me evil for good (They reward David evil for good which David did)</p> <p>13-16 (the difference between godly persons, 13-14, and ungodly persons, 15-16)</p>
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<sup>4</sup> *Esther 7:9-10* Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!" <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided." (1 cubit = 18 inches or 46 cm; 75 feet or 24 m high)

<p>mourns <i>for his</i> mother.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> <u>But</u> in my adversity they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know <i>it</i>; They tore <i>at me</i> and did not cease;</p> <p><sup>16</sup> <u>With ungodly mockers</u> at feasts They gnashed at me with their teeth.</p> <p><sup>17</sup> Lord, <u>how long will You look on?</u> Rescue me from their destructions, My precious <i>life</i> from the lions.</p> <p><sup>18</sup> I will give You <u>thanks</u> in the great assembly; I will <u>praise You</u> among many people.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> Let <u>them</u> not rejoice over me <u>who are</u> <u>wrongfully my enemies</u>; Nor let them <u>wink with the eye</u> who hate me without a cause.</p> <p><sup>20</sup> For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against <i>the</i> quiet ones in the land.</p> <p><sup>21</sup> They also opened their mouth wide against me, <i>And</i> said, "<u>Aha, aha!</u> Our eyes have seen <i>it</i>."</p> <p><sup>22</sup> <i>This</i> You have seen, O LORD; Do not keep silence. O Lord, do not be far from me.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> Stir up Yourself, and <u>awake to my</u> <u>vindication</u>, To my cause, my God and my Lord.</p>	<p>15= But (contrast)</p> <p>16= With ungodly mockers</p> <p>17=Q3 how long will You look on? (God's silence. Why? His good purpose. What is it? To become a man after His own heart, who will do all His will <sup>5</sup>Acts 13:22; How should we do in God's silence in this kind of troubles? Satan consistently exercises the power of darkness. And so we should pray consistently <sup>6</sup>1 Thess 5:17; Col 4:2; Luke 18:1)</p> <p>18=...thanks... praise You... (prayer is coupled with thanksgiving &amp; worship)</p> <p>19= wink with the eye (at each other – they the enemies agree with each other)</p> <p>21 = Aha, aha! (some bad words, which David hardly describes in this poetry prayer <sup>7</sup>Psalms 40:15; 70:3)</p> <p>23= awake to my vindication (proved up my innocence of their falsely charged things)</p>
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<sup>5</sup> Acts 13:22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

<sup>6</sup> 1 Thess 5:17 pray without ceasing.; Col 4:2Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; Luke 18:1Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 40:15 Let them be confounded because of their shame, Who say to me, "Aha, aha!"; 70:3 Let them be turned back because of their shame, Who say, "Aha, aha!"

<p>24 <u>Vindicate me</u>, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness; And let them not rejoice over me.</p> <p>25 Let them not say in their hearts, "<u>Ah</u>, so we would have it!" Let them not say, "<u>We have swallowed him up.</u>"</p> <p>26 <u>Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion</u> Who rejoice at my hurt; <u>Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor</u> Who exalt themselves against me.</p> <p>27 <u>Let them shout for joy and be glad</u>, Who favor <u>my righteous cause</u>; <u>And let them say continually</u>, "<u>Let the LORD be magnified</u>, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."</p> <p>28 And my tongue shall speak of <u>Your righteousness</u> <u>And of Your praise</u> all the day long.</p>	<p>25= Ah (a bad word against David); we have swallowed him up (we completely wiped David up, destroyed David completely.)</p> <p>26 = Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion... Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor... (David seeks for very harsh judgment or curse vs. <sup>8</sup> Acts 7:59-60; Luke 23:34 )</p> <p>27-28 (prayer is coupled with joy and worship)</p> <p>27= Let them (godly persons) shout for joy (joy) and be glad who favor my righteous cause (David's righteous cause? "Your righteousness" in verse 28); be magnified (worship)</p> <p>28= Your praise (worship or adoration)</p>
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<sup>8</sup> Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.; Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.